



December 16, 2016

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Executive Director

Honorable Councilmember Mike Bonin
Los Angeles City Council
District 11
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Room 475
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sent via email

Honorable Councilmember Bonin:

The Westchester Town Center BID has long been opposed to food carts and other forms of street vending. We do not believe that such street vendors are an appropriate use within the Westchester business district. We are writing to request that you maintain your past position (see attached October 27, 2015 letter) and exercise all of the powers of your office to prohibit any street vending or its legalization for the Westchester community.

Such vendors are not fair to local businesses that must pay rent, taxes, utilities, and abide by the many regulations that are attendant to their business, including inspections. Legalization of street vending raises questions about health, safety, increased sidewalk congestion, and trash. Obviously, the City has no realistic plan or capacity for regulating out-of-control street vending; there are an estimated 50,000 illegal street vendors currently operating in the City.

That said, we also understand that some Los Angeles City Council Districts may desire such vendors. Fine. If that be the desire let those Districts establish special zones or permits that are not applicable to our area. This is the so called "opt-in" system that you supported in your letter of October 27, 2015.

We do understand the sympathies created by national political issues. We suggest that those needs be satisfied by an "opt-in" system and that such a system would more likely be successfully implemented by the City because it is smaller in size and more focused in area.

Thank you for your attention in support of Westchester.

Sincerely,

Karen Dial
President

Donald R. Duckworth
Executive Director

C: Council Member Busciano, CD15
Council Member Price, CD9



MIKE BONIN

City of Los Angeles
Councilmember, Eleventh District

October 27, 2015

The Honorable Curren Price, Jr., Chair
The Honorable Gilbert Cedillo
The Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
The Honorable Paul Krekorian
The Honorable Nury Martinez

Re: Sidewalk Vending, Council File No. 13-1493

Dear Chairman Price:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on item #1 before the Economic Development Committee today, a proposed framework for sidewalk vending in the City of Los Angeles.

I support sidewalk vending, and fully appreciate its potential to enliven neighborhoods, create jobs, promote economic activity and more. I am eager to see the City approve a program to legalize and properly regulate sidewalk vending. I do not, however, support a blanket citywide policy, and recommend instead that we create the option for supportive neighborhoods to create **special sidewalk vending districts**.

As the second largest city in the U.S., Los Angeles is home to more than a hundred distinct and amazing neighborhoods. Each diverse neighborhood has its own set of existing planning conditions and quality of life aspirations, and I believe we should allow each neighborhood to determine whether it would like to establish a special district model to allow sidewalk vending.

This process for establishing sidewalk vending in Los Angeles should be community-driven, not City-driven. The question of whether to allow sidewalk vending in a certain area requires a careful balancing of the myriad interests of vendors, residents, brick-and-mortar business, farmers' markets, and more. That would be done most successfully at the neighborhood or community level. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to a thorough discussion in City Council.

Regards,

MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District

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